

**Cabinet Member for Highways, Transport and Economic Growth Decisions**  
24 September 2024

**PROCEDURAL MATTERS – PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

**1. Question submitted by Brian Edmonds**

Surrey CC engages in systemic acts of discrimination against the elderly highway users and pedestrians in Farnham by making their health and safety subservient to Developers' cost and convenience. This has long been the case for East Street, where pavements have been closed by officers without public consultation and the resulting pollution levels actively ignored. I have personally experienced the hostility of onsite teams when complaining of unsafe blockage of pavements that forced pedestrians to enter unsafe roads on highway bends. How does Surrey CC Highways expect the vulnerable elderly or poor without access to information to IT to sign up to "your Highways Update"? The recent closure of Farnham's East Street and its bus stop forced the elderly to walk from Farnham East Street in extreme heat to Farnham Railway station to catch their bus a detour of 0.6 miles including a significant incline.

Why does Surrey CC Highways ignore the safety of other highway users when closing Farnham's roads to pedestrians and public transport without suitable and sufficient consultation and warning. Please advise where the risk assessment and Hospitality Register for this East Street closure be found?

An extreme example of closing footpaths to aid developers was the closure of the direct footpath from Farnham Town to Farnham hospital. Delegated authority was used for this pedestrian hostile decision in favour of the developer. An additional question requests that it be confirmed that the footpath closure was within statutory authority, considering the length of closure. The developer was also irrationally allowed to use the closed public footpath as an advertising space.

**Reply:**

The East Street S278 works were completed between 17 May 2024 and 4 August 2024, with a full road closure only required for a period of 1 week commencing 29 July 2024. Advanced notification of the roadworks was published on the 10<sup>th</sup> May, and included a notification letter sent to local businesses and residents. The traffic management for the works were assessed and approved by the County Council in accordance the New Roads and Street Works Act 1991, ensuring that safe pedestrian access was maintained throughout the project duration. The traffic management included a temporary bus stop to allow buses to access East Street throughout the duration of the works, other than during the 1-week full road closure. During this time, all bus services travelling westbound (towards Farnham town centre) along East Street were diverted as follows:

- Stagecoach 16/17/18/19 – Not be able to serve westbound bus stops on Hale Road, East Street, Dogflud Way or South Street. Passengers instead advised to use the bus stop at Farnham Railway Station (Stop N).
- Stagecoach 65 – Not be able to serve westbound bus stops on Guildford Road, East Street, Dogflud Way or Union Road. Passengers instead advised to use the 'Downing Street' (Stop C) bus stop on West Street.
- Stagecoach 4/5 – Service 4 departures from Farnham not be able to serve the 'South Street' (Stop K) or 'Union Road' (Stop L) bus stops.

With regarding to the additional question, the footway closure adjacent to 80-84 East Street was approved by the County Council to maintain public safety during demolition and

construction activities on the site. During this time, the footway on the south side of East Street provided a safe route for pedestrians walking past the site.

**Matt Furniss**  
**Cabinet Member for Highways, Transport and Economic**  
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